





## *\$15,000.00 Blaze At School Destroys Class Rooms, Wash Rooms and Sleeping Quarters*

### **ELECTRICAL FIRE FEBRUARY 18 ROUTS STUDENTS AT MIDNITE**

Lent began warmly at the school this year as an electrical fire broke out on the Dorm flat, causing damage in that quarter and on the Jews' and Irish flats to the extent of \$15,000.00. This is the fourth figure that you've read on the fire. The Globe and Mail set the damages at \$50,000.00, the Star dropped suddenly to \$10,000.00 and the Telegram had the cost back up to \$35,000.00. The Blue Banner checked on the matter with Father Thomson, the Bursar, and his report, four days later when the smoke had cleared and the damage was more readily assessable, was \$15,000.00.

#### **Began in Washroom**

The first indication was at 10:30 p.m. when one of the students thought that he smelled smoke. However, investigation failed to reveal anything of an alarming nature at this time and it was 11:30 when the fire was actually discovered in the washroom on the Dorm flat. The alarm was given immediately and a group of boarders under Father Brown and Father Sheehan battled the blaze with fire extinguishers until the arrival of the fire department.

#### **Rapid Withdrawal**

Immediately upon the arrival of the fire department, Father Ream, the principal, gave the order to clear the building and in less than a minute and a half over seventy-five students resident in the school building had completed an orderly withdrawal.

"One of the quickest evacuations I have seen in many years," was the comment of District Fire Chief William Sproule.

#### **Students Battle Flames**

Under the direction of Mr. McReavy, C.S.B., the resident master on the Dorm flat, a number of students formed a brigade to fight the fire until the arrival of the firemen. Chief among these were Bob Paul and Howard Harvey who put up their customary strong defence until forced to withdraw by the smoke. Down on the ground floor Father Forrester had a brigade of boarders engaged in carrying out the library books and trophies to prevent their being spoiled by water seepage.



A few of the boarders huddle about and watch the fireman battle the fire.



An interesting midnight shot of the February 18 blaze at the school.

#### **Electrical in Origin**

The Blue Banner can positively state that the fire was not caused by a cigarette butt. The fire started under the floor and was electrical in origin. An interesting sidelight is the celerity with which the Toronto Board of Education jumped upon the rumor of the cigarette butt to ban smoking in school buildings on the part of its teachers.

### **A QUOTE AND A NOTE**

From Bobby Hewitson's column in the Tely. . . .

"'Do you know,' said Conn Smythe the other day while watching a Leaf practice, 'I found in my visit around a few of the N.H.L. cities there is a feeling that Mortson may be a better rookie than Meeker.'"

Dr. Joe Cooney, who has been living and practicing the Dental profession in Woodstock for some time past, was in town a month ago and reported plans for moving to Toronto and settling down and practicing in the Kingsway district. Joe has made a few trips to the States gathering ideas for his new dental office and claims that by late fall he should have the best equipped and most up-to-date dental office in Canada.

#### **Sleep in Parish Hall**

Carrying what blankets and clothing they could salvage, the seventy-five students who had been rousted out by the blaze made their way to St. Basil's Parish Hall, formerly the refectory, where they spent the remainder of the night. A few of the boys returned to House 90 as guests of the boarders in residence there and got Lent off to a good start by sleeping on the floor. Classes were cancelled for Ash Wednesday but were resumed the following day with all the burned out students established in other quarters.

## The Blue Banner

Published bi-monthly by the St. Michael's College School Old Boys' Association as an informative service for all members.

Editor - - - - Bill Miller  
 Associates - - - Adrian Egan  
 Alf, DeManche  
 Consulting Editor - Frank Ayerst

### HOIKETY-CHOIK

It has been noticed down at the Gardens, now that the Junior Play-offs are under way and the attendance is higher, that from time to time some Old Boy or group of Old Boys so far forget themselves as to start an enthusiastic hoikety-choik.

The practice has not become widespread because long before rickety-rackety is arrived at, the booing from the opposition benches nips the thing in the bud and whoever started the cheer seems to subside somewhat shamefacedly.

Actually, there is no chance of a group of half a dozen ex-students drowning out the combined forces of all the opposing fans and fanettes. Particularly, when Old Boys hearing the cry begin are content to let it subside without any assistance from them.

You know, there are enough of us ex-students and supporters down there scattered throughout the house to make the college yell heard clear up to Bloor Street if we all got together on it. Next time we hear a hoikety-choik start, whether we're up in the greys, front row greens, end blues, etc., let's all get behind it and shove. We're supposed to be grown men now (or is there such a thing at a hockey game) and we no longer require the anonymity of a cheering section to give us the courage to yell.

Let's back the team then. Let them know that they're the home team.

Father Regan advises that there are six applications in already for the Old Boys' One Hundred Dollar prize. The Executive are not particularly keen on going through with the idea of interviewing the applicants and would probably prefer to take the teaching staff's word as final. However, the proviso is still contained in the Conditions of Award and unless there is an amendment between now and fall, it seems that the applicants will be required to undergo the Executive's fifteen minute judgement.

Two of the Majors on this year's team, Ed. Harrison and Warren Winslow, are Old Boys in that they have left the High School and are now at St. Michael's College; Winslow in second year and Harrison in first.



Paul McNamara, O.B.A. proxy, presents Captain Eddie Santford of the St. Michael's Majors with the President's Trophy awarded annually to the most valuable player on the team. An unidentified spectator looks on.

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## Membership of O.B.A. Numbers Two Young Leaf Recruits

### FIRST SHOWED PRO CLASS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

By ADRIAN EGAN

The plains of the west and the hills of the North are notorious for the breed of men they encourage and produce. When two such widely scattered and separated sections each send a delegate who combine their talents, the only result can be the birth of a duo destined for surpassing fame, excelling even the Siamese twins.

Jimmy Thomson, born twenty years ago on Feb. 3, nurtured on a gruel of hard wheat and fried pucks in his native Winnipeg, and Gus Mortonson, born in Dymond Township, first shook hands in St. Mike's sweaters; they never released the clasp until the Memorial Cup of '45 rested within the hallowed halls of their beloved Alma Mater. During those hectic Eastern finals and the Dominion Cup series, Jim played with a broken nose, proof enough in itself of a fighting heart. Any opponent, thoughtless enough to attempt to break the hand-shake between the two, or to put one of them through the mill, invariably ends up by being threatened or severely castigated physically, by the other, for they are as protective as mother-hens.



JIMMY THOMSON

Play-off Tickets Page 8

Jimmy and Gus are both big youngsters, just a shade under six feet, and hovering between 170 and 180, a lot of muscle. Clean-cut, good-looking, and mannerly, they are full of fun and amazed at their own success and talents. A lot of credit, kudos, and ability attributed to them, or directed their way, they both insist, can be diverted to the man who makes hockey teams, the one and only Gentleman Joe. But even Joe has to have something to work with, and he in turn, is full of plaudits for the gold dust twins.

Gus started his winning ways with an Ontario Juvenile championship



GUS MORTSON

team, and Jim began his career with the Winnipeg Excelsiors, a Bantam team. The latter was used by Trail's injury riddled squad in the Dominion finals of 43-44.

Both boys are proud members of the Association, and the Old Boys are equally proud of their fellowships. And if there should ever come a period when either of them have need of further protection or encouragement than they find in themselves (which is not likely) they may rest assured that, in consideration of their efforts formerly, they have a student body, and a graduate association always willing and ready to offer their services.

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### AND ANOTHER NOTE

... Do you recognize any of these Old Boys who received awards in 1924? A clipping gives the names as follows: "L. Barnett, J. V. Burke, E. C. LeBel, B. J. Boyle, Morley Callaghan, J. F. Flaherty, T. P. McLaughlin, F. Mallon, M. C. O'Neill, P. J. Maloney, John Bennett, James Morrow, H. Lassaline, A. Page, W. H. Moore, J. Coady, George Knowlton, Norman Killingsworth, Peter Hendriks, John Townend, Richard Hannah, P. Higgins, Anthony Vince, G. D. Watson,

# What Happened At St. Mike's Before 1917? Read This!!

## DEMANCHE DIGS UP MORE OUT OF PAST

Feature writer Alf DeManche is a newspaperman who has the distinction of knowing more, perhaps, than any other man in Toronto of the early life of the Diocese and its Catholic institutions such as St. Mike's. Digging deep into the files, Alf found an article written on May 17, 1917, by Dr. Thomas O'Hagan who has been a resident student at the school. The article, containing some of his reminiscences, follows in part:

"Many years indeed have intervened—have been entombed with the past since as a young boy I began the study of the Latin declensions in St. Michael's College, Toronto. The personnel of the College professorship has completely changed since then and the members of that old class that ground out the Latin declensions under Father Larry Brennan—where are they? I should indeed like to know the fate and fortune of every boy in that class. There was Ned Gallagher from somewhere in the United States, and Dan Lynch from Walpole, New Cayaga, and Pat Madden from Weston—he of the sleepy eye and marvellous memory—and Hugh Ferguson from Ad-jala and Jimmie Phelan from Chp-stow in Bruce County—but why enumerate them all.

"The second Latin class was taught by Father Mulcahy, who always had a good story on tap; the third Latin class by Father O'Connor, afterwards Archbishop of Toronto, and the fourth and fifth year classes, Belles Lettres and Rhetoric by Father M. J. Ferguson, a charming man in conversation, whose English translations of Cicero were as finished and rounded as was the Latin of the old Roman orator himself.

"At the head of the College as Superior was Father Vincent, a man with a great and good heart, kindly, lovable, with all the simplicity and affability of the noblesse oblige of France. Father Vincent, in company with several others, had come from the Basilian College at Annony, France. These good Basilian priests had left la belle France and had come to Canada as spiritual and intellectual colonizers at the invitation of Count Bishop de Charbonnel, then occupying the See of Toronto. The other two French priests at St. Michael's, when I enrolled there as a young boy, were Father Chalandard and Father Frachon, both of whom recently passed away at an

advanced age. Father Chalandard was for many years leader of St. Basil's Choir. He had a magnificent baritone voice and was really a whole choir in himself. In my college days at St. Michael's Father Chalandard also taught a class in French.

"The impression of St. Michael's College gained in those days of my youth that has abided with me through the long years, has been that of paternal kindness and a friendship and good will that marked throughout the relation of student and professor. There was an unselfish and a splendid spirit of good will and comradeship among the students.

"It seems but yesterday when we gathered as students in the Superior's room to greet Father Vincent on the feast of his patron saint—St. Charles, and present him with some gift—a chalice or cope—as a mark of our good will. His reply to the students' address was always touching and sincere, "My dear boys, this is your college not mine. You are making it by your conduct and your lives, I am but an instrument in God's hands to labor for you."

"One of the trials of a new arrival in St. Michael's College I remember well was rising in the morning. Every dormitory of course had its professors, and when the old bell tolled between five and six you heard the "Benedicamus Domino" from the professors' quarters. To be permitted to sleep in the morning was a great favor—a great boon. We used to resort to all kinds of put-up excuses to enjoy this privilege. Whenever Father Vincent was absent from the College, Father Frachon, being next in command, would distribute all these plenary indulgences. I have known boys go into the Superior's room when Father Frachon had charge, to get a pill for the toothache and then asked to be allowed to sleep in the morning. Poor Father Frachon was as guileless as any saint and always unlocked the treasury of authority and granted the recipient of the pill the privilege of sleeping late in the morning."

## Past and Present

By A. J. DeMANCHE

The "New World" of Chicago, issue September 1919, notes: "A distinguished clerical visitor to the city recently was the Rev. E. F. Murray, C.S.B. Father Murray is a veteran Canadian educator in the service of the Church. He has been connected with Catholic educational institutions since 1855. Father Murray is attached to St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto, Canada."

Man has made great strides in the conquest of nature but not in the conquest of self. This was the theme of Father Sheridan's talk, Jan. 17th, 1918, held at St. Michael's under the auspices of the Catholic Social Guild. Chairman was Rev. F. D. Meader, C.S.B., and other speakers during the evening were Miss Mary Power, W. T. Kernahan and Jas. T. Gunn.

In the last issue of the Blue Banner an article on the front page gave detailed accounts of the changes in the school to accommodate the increasing number of students. Fifty-two years ago, Father Guinane, Treasurer of St. Michael's, was also faced with the same problem and made new dormitories and class rooms, renovating the whole house. Perhaps 50 years from now the Basilian Fathers will have to erect another new school, to accommodate the hundreds of Catholics in a city that is fast becoming one of the leading cities in the world.

... St. Michael's Old Boys' have gone into every walk of life and many of them have reached great heights. A good example of this was Most Rev. D. O'Connor, of happy memory, Third Archbishop of Toronto, who entered St. Michael's in 1853.

... Students of St. Michael's were often chosen to represent the University of Toronto in inter-collegiate debates. At the Annual St. Michael's oratorical competition held as far back as Feb. 26th, 1924, the following contestants took part: Fred Kehoe, Brian J. O'Boyle, Edwin Rush, Gordon Watson, Francis Mogan, Bernard Hamilton, with J. E. McGahy in the chair.

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**DR. JACK C. EGAN****DENTIST****2 Bloor St. E.****Kl. 4930****HONORARY  
MEMBERS  
ELECTED**

Since the last list of honorary members published a year ago, the following have accepted Honorary Membership in the Association:

Mr. Charles Connolly  
Mr. William Corney  
Rev. M. S. Lynch  
Mr. Joseph Mahon  
Rev. V. McIntyre  
Mr. Peter McGough  
Mr. Ernest Midghall  
Dr. Wm. Prendergast  
Rev. Basil Regan  
Mr. R. S. Roach  
Mr. Harry Roesler  
Mr. Leslie Sadler  
Mr. Fred Walsh  
Most Rev. B. I. Webster

**OLD BOYS CRUSH BUZZERS  
IN DYING SECONDS 5-5****IT ISN'T ALL  
HOCKEY!!**

When anyone intimates to you that St. Mike's is, was or is getting to be a home for hockey players, you can point out that Howard Harvey of this year's team, despite a practice or a game every week-day, despite several out-of-town trips and despite employing part of his time as spare goaltender for the Maple Leafs, manages to maintain a creditable 86 per cent. in his exams.

**THE BATTLE  
OF THE  
BULGES**

By ADRIAN EGAN

The general rule avows that nobody loves a fat man—and the St. Mike's Buzzers are no exception; on the other hand, the fat men showed a distinct disdain for thin men, and by dint of the ingenious masterminding of the triumvirate of Clubby Morrison (in charge of the blood transfusion section), Paul McNamara on the sweat, and Willie Doyle on the tears and toil, they gave the kind of highly polished exhibition to be expected of so superbly conditioned, powerful, and well-coached an aggregation. At one period of the game, seventeen men were iced, an innovation in hockey circles unexplored by even the more astute students. The results were compatible with the efforts—the referees failed to notice the increase, (since every time an old boy stepped on the ice it appeared as if there were two), the game was tied at five all by the exercise of unlimited experience on the part of a hoary, bearded, laboring swain, who delights in the cognomen of Jiggs, and the patronym of Brislan, and finally an old gentleman in the greys laid down an issue of E-quire wrapped in a Short Stories and Essays cover, and watched the game.

Seriously, the old boys showed that they had not let slip the savoir-faire of the game with their waists. Tommy Somers, Don Willson, Bernie Lobraico, George Dodd, Father Ted Mahoney, all showed commendable form. Ted O'Hearn and Claude Morrison, both of whom compromised with advancing years and retreating stamina by refusing to participate, made infallible and forceful decisions in the guise of referees, admitting no favorites. Jack Morrison alternated between the pipes with the original Mr. Zero, Tommy Dunne, who incidentally, looks less like a big round zero progressively as the years go by, and holds the enviable position of the old boy to lose the most waist since 1847.

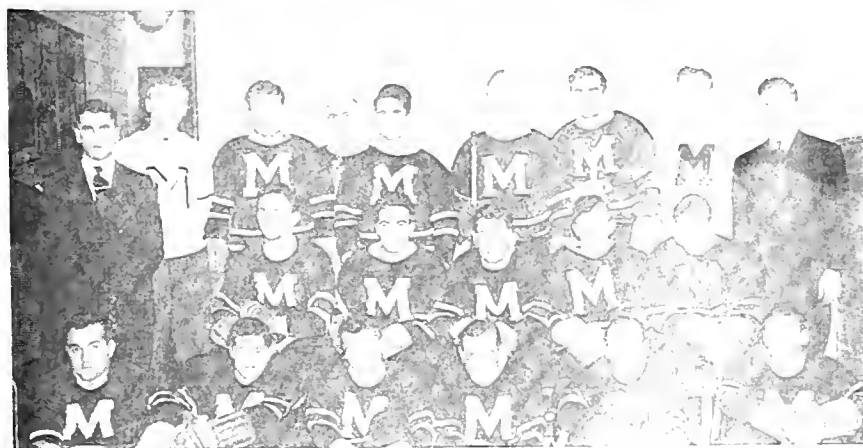
The net result (people get paid for jokes like that) was a five goal tie, with all members of the old boys sharing in the spoil. A nimble scout from the executive double-blue talked Ed. Sandford into a contract for next year's team.

All in all it was a gala night, concluding with the presentation by Paul McNamara, president of the Old Boys' Association, of the President's Trophy to Captain Eddie Sandford of the Majors.

COMPLIMENTS

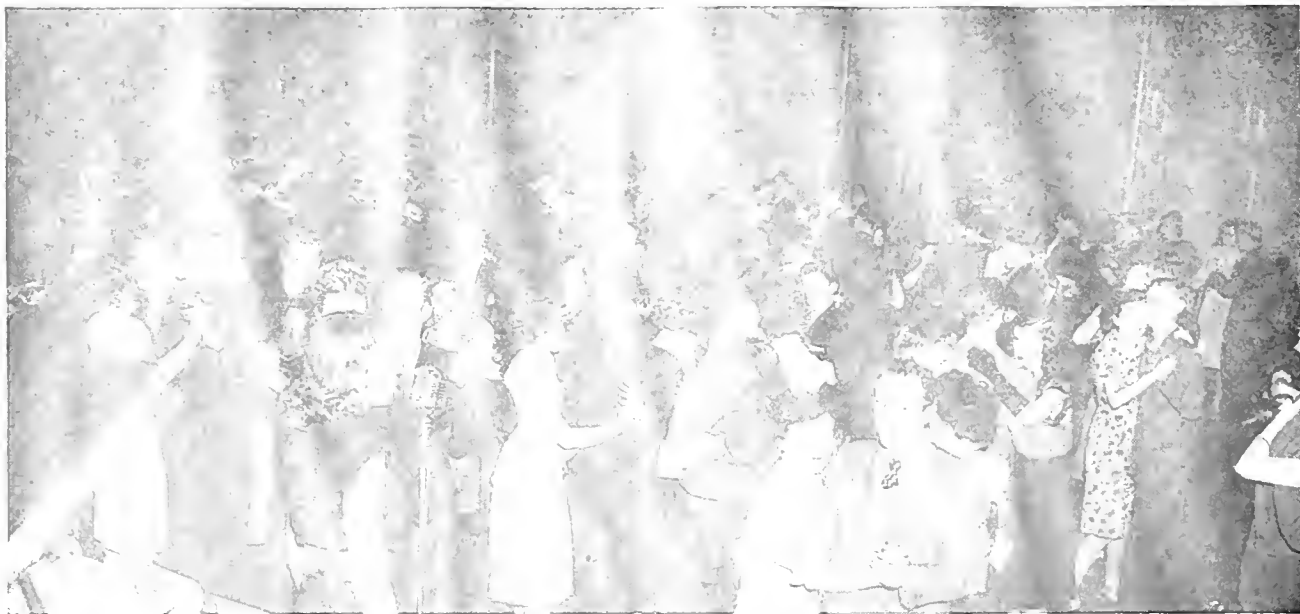
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Standard bearers for the Old Boys this year were, left to right: Top row—Paul Morrison, manager, Claude Morrison, referee, Tommy Dunne, Mr. Kelly (Red's dad), Jack Morrison, Johnny Callahan, Bernie Lobraico, Ted O'Hearn, linesman, Billy Doyle, manager, Centre row—Bus Sadler, Johnay Blute, Tommy Somers, George Dodd, Greg Carter, Bottom row, Frank Sheedy, Charlie Fong, Neil Morrison, Gene Sheedy, Don Willson and Father Mahoney.

## DOUBLE BLUE BALL SUCCESSFUL AGAIN



Herewith a section of the crowd in the usual gay mood.

Well, men, we did it again. You and I, through our membership in the O.B.A., staged another successful Double Blue Ball for the students at the school, the Old Boys and their friends. But we came a little closer to financial disaster this time and the net profit on the affair won't endow many scholarships for posterity.

#### Dates Clash

As some of you may have heard from your wives, our date this year coincided with that of the Annual Saint Joe Go at the Eaton Auditorium. This wasn't intentional. It was a case of February 3rd being the only date that any sort of accommodation could be had for the affair. Consequently, attendance was down from 900 last year to 700 at this year's rally with the Old Boys numbering about 50 per cent. of those present.

#### Fun and Festivity

Dan McCarthy did as splendid a job of decorating the Banquet Hall of the Royal York as he did on any other of the several phases of the affair. You can see a corner of the Double Blue Ball banner in the accompanying picture of Joe Crysdale and Clary Burt. Ellis McIntock provided the music for the affair and while we won't go so far as to say that Ellis and his orchestra were louder than ten a.m. in a boiler factory, they weren't much quieter either. Joe Crysdale was on hand again after another busy day at CKEY and it was about the time of Joe's arrival that things started

happening. Prizes flew right and left; lucky numbers, spot dances, door prizes and there was some talk of a "Guess Who" prize on the orchestra's pre-intermission number but nobody knew the answer. Doug Romaine was a bright spot in an evening full of bright spots. His pantomimes and impersonations were big hits and this boy seems sure of a spot on next year's bill.

#### Queen of the Ball

Miss Teresa McDonough (we don't know who had the happy idea of bringing Miss Teresa) took down the orchid as the Queen of the Ball. If you have any quarrel with the selection, the judges were Joe Crysdale and Dan McCarthy.

#### Among Those Present

Sprinkled in among the students were such reminders of yesteryear as the filling forms of Wilt Sheedy and the Clune brothers. From the east end of the city came Don Walsh, Bill Allen, Gene Ste. Marie and the Tierneys as well as Holy Name's ambassador to these functions, Joe Regan. From Alliston came Harold Bolger who derives part of his income from a Wurlitzer agency for the area. When McIntock went into "Open The Door, Richard", Harold lay right down on the floor and sobbed. He tells us that he's heard that tune so often in his business travels that he suffers from Sunday morning delusions that the choir is giving it a Gregorian treatment. Stan Adams made the long trip from Montreal and we were glad to see Jim and Frank Bird from Oshawa, even though they looked a little peaked from a winter of Holikuty-Choliking in the Oshawa arena. Felix Fritz, Bill Young and Joe Reffe were searching the premises for Joe Irish and Greg Carter was display-

ing fair form after skating himself into submission for the Old Boys on St. Michael's night at the Gardens. Father Regan, the principal, along with Father Mallon, Father Faught, Father Brown and Father Flanagan represented the Basilian clergy.

#### Notes Still Discernible On a Dirty Shirt Cuff

The large gent who took away the door prize was none other than Clary Burt, star lineman of St. Michael's College and Argo football teams of a few seasons ago . . . Father McIntyre, the O.B.A. secretary, spent the week of the dance in the infirmary but is up and about now and reports the attack of 'flu completely put to route. If Adrian Egan is home from the dance by now, the Editor would like to have his tie back in time for Easter. Old Boy Jack O'Connor made a special trip from Detroit for the Ball. Jack is currently studying medicine in the States. Jim Thomson and Gus Mortson dropped in for a while and stayed the evening . . . Doug Graham and Les Cunningham have now mastered the two step and Ted Schmidt was so encouraged with his prowess on the 3rd that he contemplates learning the waltz next.

## ANOTHER NOTE

Don McDonald, the association treasurer, has taken the dignity of his office so seriously that he has purchased a black homburg hat for everyday wear. The Blue Banner herewith calls for Mr. McDonald's defeat at the next election before he completes his own ruin by affecting spats.



# Annual Band Concert at Eaton Auditorium Friday, April 25th

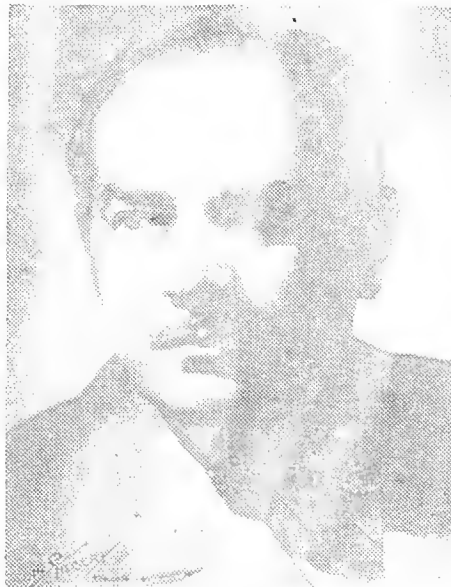
Pianist for Hans Richter, London, England.



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Conductor of Italian Opera Co., London



CESAR BORRE

Director and Conductor of Leonidas Symphony.



Conductor of Royal Flemish Opera at Antwerp, Brussels.



Conductor of New York Metropolitan Symphony.



## A CHALLENGE TO THE OLD BOYS

— FROM FATHER MCINTYRE, FACULTY MODERATOR.

It is a sad reflection and a humiliating admission, but none the less a truism, that St. Michael's Old Boys read the front page, the funnies and the Sport Page (a few, of course are interested in the Markets). And it all adds up to something like this—that the Old Boys support the one activity about the school which is self supporting. Each year the High School Students stage a Play or two or three which win great acclaim but little patronage. We could stand the

financial weight of Old Boy support in this department.

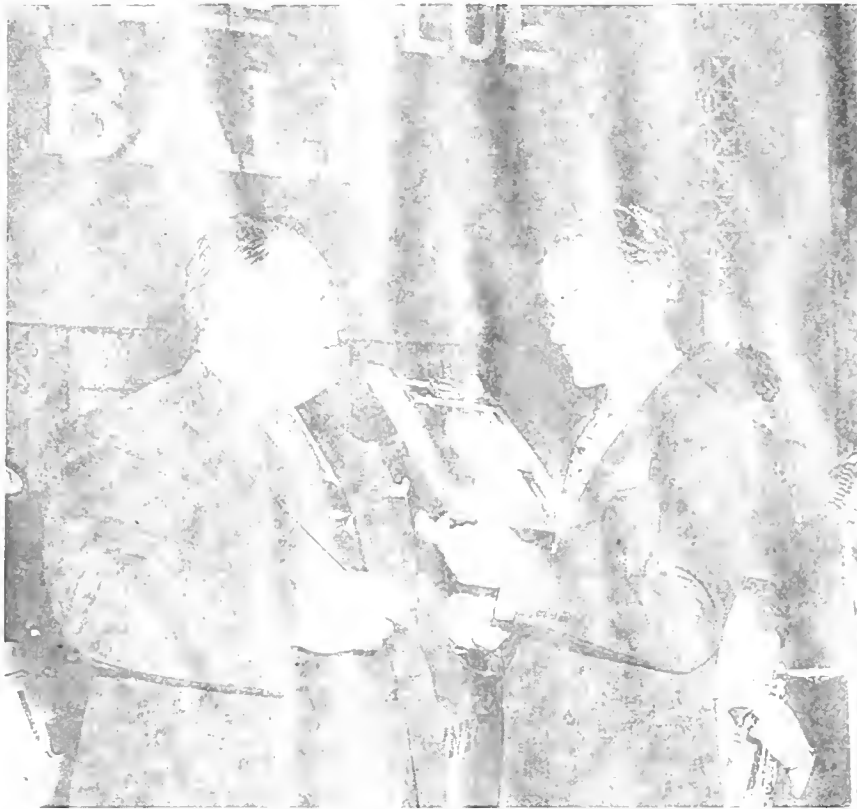
For six years now the St. Michael's College School Band has won great applause at its Annual Concert at Eaton Auditorium. Yet, the fingers of one hand suffice to count the number of Old Boys who turn up at this affair. Come registration time we find Old Boys sending their sons to other Colleges because we have no BAND at St. Michael's. Yet, St

Michael's College School has the largest school concert band in the city of Toronto. It has the unique distinction of being the only school band to be admitted to Eaton Auditorium. How ironical then, that we should have to INTRODUCE to our Old Boys Professor Cesar Borre and our School Band. Here they are boys, and we'll let the Music Critics of our Toronto dailies tell you a thing or two about them.

"A Band with emotion as well as musicianship."

"There is never a raucous phrase nor a strident vagrant tone through the whole ensemble."

## MORE FUN AT THE FROLIC



Joe Crysdale endeavoring to sell Clary Burt his door prize in exchange for about twenty pounds of Clary's luff.

DUNBAR SPARKING  
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Chairman Walter Dunbar of the Membership Committee is organizing a parish by parish drive for new members to take place this month.

Last year, the Association's membership was something in the neighborhood of 500. This year the membership is down to 400.

At the beginning of the year, your Association spent \$250.00 in an effort to reach the Toronto potential of six or seven thousand members. The results to date have been pretty discouraging and it would seem that correspondence, as a method of securing members is not the answer.

Now the problem is being approached from the point of personal contact. Walter Dunbar is going about the business of securing one or two or three members in each parish to make a survey of their own parishes and a definite attempt to sign up every ex-student in the parish. If you feel that there is anything that you can do towards this end, even getting ONE member, you are asked to contact Walter Dunbar at KE. 9651 or drop a line to the Association office at 50 St. Joseph Street.

promises are best in line for these ducats. Your rights are protected. The tickets have been secured for YOU MEMBERS and are being sold to MEMBERS ONLY.

## HEY!

PLAYOFF TICKETS  
FOR THE MEMBERS

Members were no doubt pleased to receive the "Dear Rooter" letter lately which told of the accomplishment of another Association aim, something of a preferred position for Old Boys in the matter of playoff tickets.

The Executive has secured one hundred and fifty tickets for each St. Mike's playoff game: fifty blues and one hundred greens. These tickets are being sold to MEMBERS ONLY in the following manner. Since there will not be enough tickets for each member, they are being sold two to a member on a first-come first-served basis. The tickets go on sale at the School forty-eight hours before game time from seven-thirty until nine o'clock in the EVENING. There can be no sale before this as this would give Old Boys attending the University an advantage over those who are downtown all day.

This is an early accomplishment of one of the Association aims as it was considered that a membership of five thousand would be necessary in order to secure a favorable position in the hunt for playoff tickets. The Executive deserve a great deal of credit for the capable way in which they have gone to bat for the Old Boys. Get over to the school and get your tickets now. You ex-students who joined the Association and supported it when there was very little to offer, but prospects and

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